

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/642,200

Examiner

Romain Jeanty

Applicant(s)

HAMMITT ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/3/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-12 and 37-48.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3623

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 7-12, and 37-48 are allowed.

Reason for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art is to Du et al (US Patent No. 6,041,306). Du et al a workflow system for receiving an event and executing the event based on certain conditions as defined in by rules. However, Du et al fails to teach or suggest invoking an optimization, an inference engine, and a constraint satisfaction engine to interpret the business domain model, the business domain model including of a rule base model, an optimization model and a constraint model, and identifying a follow-up situation that considers any feedback provided by a consumer of the generated recommendation, taken in combination with a method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in independent claim 9.

The closest prior art is to Du et al (US Patent No. 6,041,306). Du et al a workflow system for receiving an event and executing the event based on certain conditions as defined in by rules. However, Du et al fails to teach or suggest invoking an optimization, an inference engine, and a constraint satisfaction engine to interpret the business domain model, the business domain model including of a rule base model, an optimization model and a constraint model, and identifying a follow-up situation that considers any feedback provided by a consumer of the generated recommendation, taken in combination with a computer-readable medium having program instructions for executing an interaction flow model as recited in independent claim 39.

The closest prior art is to Du et al (US Patent No. 6,041,306). Du et al a workflow system for receiving an event and executing the event based on certain conditions as defined in by rules. However, Du et al fails to teach or suggest invoking an optimization, an inference engine, and a constraint satisfaction engine to interpret the business domain model, the business domain model including of a rule base model, an optimization model and a constraint model, and identifying a follow-up situation that considers any feedback provided by a consumer of the generated recommendation, taken in combination with a an apparatus having a processor and a memory containing programs for executing an interaction flow model as recited in independent claim 48.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Dimino (US Patent 6,199,047) discloses a rating engine that can be configured for a particular task and is logically decoupled from the rating database when a usage event is rated.

Art Unit: 3623

b. Agrawal (US Patent No. 6,278,977) discloses a computerized method automatically adapting a process model. Said process model may be a model of a business process. Such process models are used, for instance, within computer systems for controlling and executing the underlying business process. It may comprise a multitude of activities being part of said business process.

c. Feurer et al. "Performance Measurement in Strategic Change" Benchmarking for Quality Management & Technology, vol. 2, no. 2, page 64, 95.

d. The Technical Resource Connection, Inc "Common Business Objects and Common Facilities", discloses an ontology-based approach to business modeling system.

e. Shan et al (Business Process flow Management and its Application in the Telecommunications Management Network), discloses the concept of a method for defining and managing the flow of business process.

f. Howard et al "Share the ontology in XML-based trading architecture", discloses ontology of a business domain.

g. Fernandes et al "A Structured Modeling Approach to Object-Oriented Representation of Business Domains", discloses the concept of business domain model.

h. Neoforma (EP0895171A2) discloses a system for planning projects.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am. to 6:00 pm.

Art Unit: 3623

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 23, 2006



Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3623